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University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board of Trustees

In Person, USC Aiken Student Activities Center Mezzanine
and By Microsoft Teams
September 26, 2025

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order

Chair Westbrook called the meeting to order at 11:19 a.m. Interim Secretary Bradley confirmed Trustees attending in person and by Microsoft Teams audio and video conference.

Committee Members in attendance:

Thad H. Westbrook, *Board Chair*
Rose Buyck Newton, *Board Vice Chair*
C. Dan Adams
W. Michael Bond
Coleman Floyd Buckhouse
Alex English (online)
Brian C. Harlan
Henry L. Jolly, Jr.
Richard A. Jones Jr.
Hubert F. Mobley
Leah B. Moody
Emma W. Morris
Reid T. Sherard
C. Dorn Smith III (online)
J. Strom Thurmond Jr.
John C. von Lehe Jr. (online)
Charles Williams (online)

Members absent:

Ellen Weaver

Others in attendance:

Courtney Tkacs, USC Columbia Student Government President
Liam Hein, USC Columbia Faculty Senate Chair

Robin Roberts, Advisor to the Advancement, Engagement and Communication Committee
(online)
David Seaton, Advisor to the Governance Committee

Administrators in attendance:

Michael Amiridis, President
Stacey Bradley, Interim University Secretary and Secretary of the Board of Trustees
Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Terry Parham, General Counsel
Ed Walton, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Media in attendance:

Hayden Davis, the *Daily Gamecock*
Jessica Holdman, *SC Daily Gazette*

Notice:

Chair Westbrook stated notice of the meeting and agenda had been posted and the press notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda and supporting materials had been circulated to the Board; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

II. Invocation

Mr. John Carroll, Senior Pastor at Aiken First Baptist Church, delivered the invocation.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Westbrook stated there was a need for an Executive Session for the discussion of negotiations incident to proposed purchases of property, for discussion of proposed gift naming agreements, for discussion of the development of security personnel and campus safety, and for discussions of personnel matters regarding the appointment of the Vice President for System Affairs and Community Engagement and the resignation of the Vice President for Marketing.

Mr. Sherard made the motion to enter Executive Session. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

– Executive Session Removed

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

III. Approval of Minutes

The following sets of minutes were circulated for review in advance of the meeting.

- A. Advancement, Engagement and Communications Committee – August 22, 2025
- B. Audit Compliance and Risk Committee – August 22, 2025

- C. Board of Trustees (Called) – August 22, 2025
- D. Finance and Infrastructure Committee – August 22, 2025
- E. University System Committee – August 22, 2025

Mr. Sherard made a motion to approve the minutes as circulated. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

IV. Consent Agendas

The following Committees' written consent agendas were submitted for approval.

- A. Academic Excellence and Student Experience Committee – September 26, 2025
- B. Audit, Compliance and Risk Committee – June 20, 2025 and August 22, 2025
- C. Finance and Infrastructure Committee – August 22, 2025
- D. Governance Committee – September 26, 2025

Mr. Sherard made a motion to approve the consent agendas as published. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

V. Approval of Gift Namings

Chair Westbrook stated that two gift namings were presented in Executive Session without objection.

Mr. Sherard made a motion to approve the gift namings as presented in Executive Session. Ms. Moody seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

VI. Approval of FY26 Budget

The proposed FY2026-27 executive budget request and supporting material was circulated for review in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Moody made a motion to approval of FY26-27 executive budget request as circulated. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

VII. Approval of Vice President for System Affairs and Community Engagement

President Amiridis recommended Julian Williams as the Vice President for System Affairs and Community Engagement.

Mr. Sherard made a motion to approve the President's recommendation for Vice President for System Affairs and Community Engagement. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

VIII. AI Status Report

Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Brice Bible presented an AI status report.

Chair Westbrook called for a motion to approve the university's statement about adoption of AI.

Ms. Moody made a motion to endorse the university's AI statement as presented. Mr. Bond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

IX. President's Report

President Michael Amiridis presented the president's report.

The report was received as information.

X. Other Matters

Chair Westbrook called for any other matters to come before the Board. There were none.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Westbrook declared the meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Bradley
Interim Secretary